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parties would be better off than they would be with their bottom line, which itself is a number that is livable to both parties. What we don't have, said these writers, is a way of doing this process. Maybe you could do it privately. We suggest this to lawyers to do privately, and after having read this I said to myself, well gosh, that's okay, but would require that lawyers read this rather academic journal, figure out the idea, and then voluntarily choose to do it. Why not make this available to people in the state of Nebraska by assigning the responsibility to serve as this third party to our Office of Dispute Resolution in the Court Administrators Office or, if possible, they might be able to delegate the responsibility to the mediation centers around the state. The bill essentially says this, parties to a lawsuit in which money damages is the only issue have a voluntary option--they can go to the Office of Dispute Resolution, have the Dispute Resolution Office contact the other party, ask both parties if they would consider offering to the office their confidential, secret bottom line. Then if they do that, the parties agree that if there's an overlap between what the parties will accept for settlement, that the settlement will be the midpoint of that overlap, and that if they discover that in the Office of Dispute Resolution both parties are agreeing that that's the settlement point that they would accept. It can be done once and only once in a case. It is totally voluntary on both parties part, it can be initiated at any time prior to trial; it assures an impartial agent who is confidential and who is subject to the regulation of the court and the discipline of the court, should they violate their responsibilities at any time. It is designed to reduce the delay in reaching settlements. It's designed to reduce costs to both parties and to the court system itself. Having introduced the bill, I learned that this kind of mechanism is available on the Internet, through something called Cybersettle in which parties pay for this process to the tune of about \$600. However, it is done through a computer system, which of course means it has a security problem; it's done over the Internet, which means if something does go wrong it's unclear as to how the settlement practice would go forward or the discipline of parties who were participating in the mechanism. Cybersettle has been successful, however, in a number of instances, I think to the tune of about \$25 million of settlements in about 10,000 cases;